

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 117035

P 261351Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6461

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18356

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT

1. I HAD AN HOUR WITH THE CHANCELLOR LAST EVENING TO DISCUSS HIS EXPECTATIONS FOR THE VISIT WHICH HE WILL SHORTLY BE MAKING TO WASHINGTON. AS HE HAD ALREADY INDICATED TO ENDERS AND BENNETT, THE MAIN ISSUES HE WILL WANT TO DISCUSS ARE THE ENERGY/RECYCLING AND RECESSION/INFLATION COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY IN THE FOREFRONT OF HIS CONCERN. HE RE-ITERATED HIS DESIRE TO HAVE A MEETING BETWEEN US AND GERMAN ECONOMIC EXPERTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON.

2. APART FROM THESE PROBLEMS, HE ADDED, HE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN HAVING FROM THE PRESIDENT A FRANK EVALUATION OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN SITUATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT SUMMIT IN VLADIVOSTOK. HE ASKED WHETHER I COULD TELL HIM ANYTHING ABOUT THE CURRENT SOVIET POSTURE TOWARDS POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, NOTING THAT HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY A RECENT PAPER WHICH HE HAD READ BY GEORGE BALI ARGUING THAT THE ONLY HOPE FOR A SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS TO BRING THE SOVIETS BACK INTO THE ACT. I SAID I HAD NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUMMIT TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION THE RELEVANT LANGUAGE OF THE
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JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH HE HAD NOT SEEN (I LEFT A COPY OF

THIS WITH HIM, AS WELL AS A COPY OF THE JOINT STATEMENT ON SALT).

3. ADDITIONALLY, HE WOULD, OF COURSE, APPRECIATE A GENERAL RUNDOWN ON THE VLADIVOSTOK TALKS AND OUR APPRAISAL OF CURRENT SOVIET ATTITUDES ON SALT AND OTHER MATTERS. HE RATHER EXPECTED THAT WE WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ON CSCE, ADDING THAT OUR MESSAGES ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF AN EARLY CONCLUSION OF PHASE 2 HAD BEEN COMING ACROSS CLEARLY. ANOTHER SUBJECT WHICH HE THOUGHT WE MIGHT WISH TO RAISE WAS THE "STRANGE AND EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UN. FINALLY, HE WOULD BE PREPARED, IF WE WISHED, TO GIVE HIS VIEWS ON THE EC SUMMIT WHICH, AFTER ALL, WOULD INVOLVE MANY OF THE SAME BASIC ISSUES OF ENERGY AND RECYCLING WHICH HE HOPED TO COVER IN WASHINGTON.

4. AS FOR OSTPOLITIK AND BERLIN QUESTIONS, HE FELT THESE COULD BE LEFT FOR DISCUSSION BY FOREIGN MINISTERS. WHEN I ASKED HIM WHETHER HE PLANNED TO RAISE ANY MILITARY MATTERS, HE SAID NO, BUT ADDED THAT, IF HE WERE TO DO SO, IT WOULD BE TO MAKE THE POINT THAT HE HOPED THERE WOULD NOT BE TALK OF ANOTHER OFFSET. THAT "PECULIAR INSTITUTION" HAD TO COME TO AN END. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, INTEND TO BRING THE SUBJECT UP.

5. THE CHANCELLOR THEN WENT ON TO REPEAT SOME OF HIS

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6462

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 18356

EXDIS

WELL-KNOWN PESSIMIISTIC VIEWS ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD ECONOMY, BUT ADDED NOTHING NOT ALREADY REPORTED IN PREVIOUS TELEGRAMS EXCEPT PERHAPS THE THOUGHT THAT IF THE US REALLY WANTED TO INFLUENCE GISCARD OUR BEST WEAPON WAS FORMER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY SHULTZ WHO HAD THE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT FROM THEIR DAYS TOGETHER AS FINANCE MINISTERS.

6. BEFORE WE CONCLUDED, THE CHANCELLOR NOTED THAT HE HAD NOW DEFINITELY DECIDED THAT WIVES WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE GERMAN PARTY. HE OBSERVED THAT THIS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE MRS. GENSCHER UNHAPPY, BUT HE WANTED A SERIOUS VISIT UNHAMPERED BY TOO MUCH PURELY SOCIAL ACTIVITY.

7. COMMENT: SCHMIDT IS OBVIOUSLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS WASHINGTON VISIT, THOUGH HE EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE HAD NO INTERNAL POLITICAL OBJECTIVES TO BE GAINED FROM THE TRIP. HE IS EAGER TO ESTABLISH A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENT WHOM HE BELIEVES HE MET ONCE BRIEFLY IN WASHINGTON AROUND 1960.

8. WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO HAVE THE CHANCELLOR ARRIVE WITH A RESERVED IF NOT SKEPTICAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS AT LEAST THE \$25 BILLION FACILITIES PORTION OF OUR ENERGY PROGRAM. THE INFLUENTIAL STATE SECRETARY POEHL, WHO MAY BE A MEMBER OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY, FEELS OUR APPROACH IS QUESTIONABLE AND PRESENTS SERIOUS IF NOT INSOLUBLE PROBLEMS FOR THE FRG. HE ADMITS, HOWEVER,
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THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE DECISION ON MODALITIES HAS TO BE BASICALLY A POLITICAL ONE.

9. ALTHOUGH BOTH THE CHANCELLOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TRY TO PUT ON A GOOD FRONT, THE CURRENT STRAINS BETWEEN THEM COULD BECOME EVIDENT, PARTICULARLY IF SCHMIDT TOO CONSPICUOUSLY SEEMS TO BE DRAWING HIS ADVICE SOLELY FROM THE EXPERTS HE INTENDS TO BRING ALONG FROM OTHER MINISTRIES AND HS OWN STAFF.
HILLENBRAND

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